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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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URGING THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA TO HONOR ITS PROMISE AND  
COMMITMENT TO NO LONGER HARVEST ORGANS FROM EXECUTED  
PRISONERS FOR ORGAN TRANSPLANTS.

1 WHEREAS, the People's Republic of China implemented  
2 regulations in 1984 that permitted the harvesting of organs from  
3 executed prisoners; and  
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5 WHEREAS, due in part to traditional views on the importance  
6 of preserving the body intact after death, China has very low  
7 rates of voluntary organ donations; and  
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9 WHEREAS, the People's Republic of China performs more than  
10 ten thousand organ transplantations per year; and  
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12 WHEREAS, in June 2001, Chinese doctor Wang Guoqi testified  
13 before the United States House of Representatives' International  
14 Relations Subcommittee on International Organizations and Human  
15 Rights that hospitals worked in collusion with state security  
16 agencies to extract organs from executed prisoners without  
17 written consent of the organ donors, and that these transplants  
18 were a lucrative source of income; and  
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20 WHEREAS, the United States Department of State's Country  
21 Report on Human Rights Practices for China for 2013 stated that  
22 advocacy groups continued to report instances of organ  
23 harvesting; and  
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25 WHEREAS, in September 2012, experts testified before the  
26 United States House of Representatives' Foreign Affairs  
27 Committee that United States patients continue to travel to  
28 China for organ transplants and that the medical community  
29 continues cooperation and training with Chinese colleagues,  
30 creating the risk that they may be indirectly aiding abusive  
31 practices; and



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2 WHEREAS, China's former Vice-Minister of Health and current  
3 head of the country's organ donation committee Huang Jiefu  
4 admitted publicly that approximately five years ago, more than  
5 ninety percent of transplant organs extracted from deceased  
6 donors stemmed from executed prisoners in China, and that organs  
7 from executed prisoners accounted for sixty-four percent of  
8 transplants in 2012 and fifty-four percent in mid-2013; and  
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10 WHEREAS, voluntary and informed consent is the precondition  
11 for ethical organ donation, and international medical  
12 organizations state that prisoners, deprived of their freedom,  
13 are not in a position to give free consent and that the practice  
14 of sourcing organs from prisoners is a violation of ethical  
15 guidelines in medicine; and  
16

17 WHEREAS, Falun Gong is an ancient spiritual discipline that  
18 emphasizes moral teachings of truthfulness, compassion, and  
19 tolerance. Falun Gong also includes meditation and exercises  
20 and became immensely popular in the 1990s, reaching over seventy  
21 million practitioners in China; and  
22

23 WHEREAS, in July 1999, the Chinese Communist Party launched  
24 an intensive, nationwide campaign of persecution designed to  
25 eradicate the spiritual practice of Falun Gong, reflecting the  
26 party's long-standing intolerance of large and independent civil  
27 societal groups; and  
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29 WHEREAS, since 1999, hundreds of thousands of Falun Gong  
30 practitioners have been detained illegally in reeducation-  
31 through-labor camps, detention centers, and prisons, where  
32 torture and abuse are routine; and  
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34 WHEREAS, the number of organ transplant operations in China  
35 increased significantly after 1999, corresponding with the onset  
36 of the persecution of Falun Gong; and  
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38 WHEREAS, this increase does not appear to be attributable  
39 either to an overall increase in the number of death row inmates  
40 or to an increase in voluntary donations, and, in fact, human  
41 rights groups and legal experts believe there has been a



1 decrease in the number of executions in China in recent years;  
2 and

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4 WHEREAS, Chinese hospitals have advertised waiting times of  
5 two to four weeks for kidney and liver transplants, and  
6 documented cases exist of scheduled heart transplantations with  
7 three weeks advance notice; and

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9 WHEREAS, because organs have a very limited survival period  
10 outside the body, such short wait times are best explained by  
11 the existence of a large pool of donors whose organs can be  
12 harvested on demand; and

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14 WHEREAS, interviews conducted with previously imprisoned  
15 Falun Gong practitioners suggest that, while in custody, they  
16 were targeted for medical exams, including blood and urine  
17 tests, x-rays, ultra-sound tests, and selective physical exams;  
18 and

19  
20 WHEREAS, the targeted nature of these exams suggests they  
21 are intended to assess the health of the practitioners' vital  
22 organs and their potential candidacy for organ harvesting; and

23  
24 WHEREAS, other prisoner groups are generally not subjected  
25 to such medical tests; and

26  
27 WHEREAS, in 2006, doctors from seventeen Chinese hospitals  
28 admitted in phone calls with undercover investigators that they  
29 used or could obtain vital organs of Falun Gong prisoners of  
30 conscience for transplant, with some of the doctors implicating  
31 local courts and security agencies in the organ procurement  
32 process; and

33  
34 WHEREAS, the United Nations Committee Against Torture and  
35 the Special Rapporteur on Torture have expressed concern over  
36 the allegations of organ harvesting from Falun Gong prisoners,  
37 and have called on the Government of the People's Republic of  
38 China to increase accountability and transparency in the organ  
39 transplant system and punish those responsible for abuses; and

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41 WHEREAS, the killing of religious or political prisoners  
42 for the purpose of selling their organs for transplant is an



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egregious and intolerable violation of the fundamental right to life; and

WHEREAS, in December 2014, Huang Jiefu announced that as of January 1, 2015, organs from executed prisoners will no longer be used for organ transplants, and only voluntarily donated organs from civilians would be used in transplants; and

WHEREAS, the People's Republic of China has previously announced deadlines to end the practice of using organs of executed prisoners for organ transplants but has not met these self-imposed deadlines and the practice has continued; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2015, the House of Representatives concurring, that the Legislature urges the Government of the People's Republic of China to honor its promise and commitment to no longer harvest organs from prisoners, and particularly from Falun Gong prisoners of conscience and members of other religious and ethnic minority groups; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if this practice is still state-sanctioned and continuing, that the United States Department of State is urged to issue a travel warning for United States citizens traveling to China for organ transplants informing them that the organ source for their operation may be a prisoner of conscience; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, Hawaii's congressional delegation, the United States Secretary of State, and the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the United States.

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